

TRIBUTARY



WATER EDUCATION AND CONSERVATION NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2005

Controlling Your Controller

By Molly Waters, Water Conservation Coordinator, DWRe

An automated sprinkler system can help you water efficiently if the controller is used properly. A study conducted by the Division of Water Resources found that residents with automatic sprinkler systems in Salt Lake City typically water 44% more than the lawn needs. Make sure you use your timer wisely by doing the following:

Adjust your watering schedule to the season. Your landscape needs much less water during the spring and fall than it does during the summer.

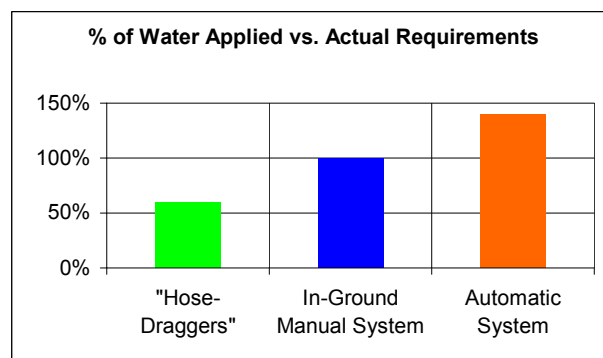
Don't water in the heat of the day. Not watering during the hot daytime hours will reduce the amount of water you lose to evaporation. Also, you can reduce the overall amount of time you water due to the water saved from evaporation!

Don't water during or after a rainstorm. Historically, Mother Nature has provided about 30-40% of the moisture your lawn needs to remain healthy--take advantage of this gift and help conserve our water resources.

Program your timer to cycle watering events. Clay type soils and areas with mild or steep slopes usually cannot absorb water fast enough to prevent it from running off. If such conditions exist in your landscape, program your timer to water for several shorter periods, with about an hour in-between, to let the water soak into the soil.

Keep the battery in your controller fresh and a copy of your schedule nearby. If the power fails and your battery is dead, you will lose all the adjustments you have made. Just in case, keep a copy of the schedule that works best for your landscape nearby so you can easily reprogram the timer if needed.

Turn the entire system to "Manual". As most fully automated sprinkler systems inherently water more than is required, try using your eyes as an effective watering tool! All sprinkler timers have a "Manual" mode, or an option where you can turn the water on and off when you'd like, without following a pre-set schedule or without having to go outside and turn on the valves manually. Keeping an eye on your landscape and lawn, and only watering when you deem it necessary has the potential to reduce your watering by nearly 50 percent!



Read your controller's user's manual to learn more about the capabilities of your timer. If it cannot do what you need it to, purchase a new one. And remember, your timer is there to help you water efficiently, but it can only do so if you know it well!

If you want to know how long you should water each zone in your landscape and whether or not you should cycle, visit www.conservewater.utah.gov to find a Real-Time Lawn Watering Guide!

Utah Water Infomercial

By Molly Waters, Water Conservation Coordinator, DWRe

As more and more growth occurs in Utah, there will be more and more pressure on state leaders to supply those new residents with a safe and reliable amount of water.

The Governor's Water Conservation Team, formed in 2001 under the order of then governor Mike Leavitt, has produced a 30-minute infomercial in order to help better educate Utahns about where their water comes from, and how to most efficiently use that water.



Hosted by native Utahn Merlin Olsen, the video highlights not only the issues surrounding the future of water in Utah, but

also provides helpful tools for homeowners to implement in their "own back yard".

In order to view this video online, please visit www.conservewater.utah.gov. If you wish to have a copy of the DVD, please contact Molly Waters at (801) 538-7254 or mollywaters@utah.gov.

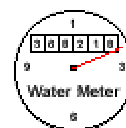
Residential Leak Detection

By Molly Waters, Water Conservation Coordinator, DWRe

Summertime is a great opportunity to teach the citizens of your community about finding leaks using their water meter. Familiarizing your citizenry with their water meters will make them more aware of how their water is billing, and helps in your conservation education programs.

Here is a suggestion for a bill stuffer or newsletter article set of instructions:

First, make sure all water-using devices in your home are not in use. Next, find the water meter in your yard, **CAREFULLY** remove the lid and locate the meter dial. It should look something like this:



Check to see if the dial is moving. If it is, you either have a leak or something in your home is using water. **Go find it!** Places to look are toilets (flappers get old and wear out, letting the toilet leak), faucets and under sinks.

If you can't find the leak, you may want to call a professional. The leak could be in a fairly inaccessible spot, and could be worse than you thought!

Calendar of Events

Please visit our Events Calendar located at www.conservewater.utah.gov/calendar.

September 13, 2005

Large Water User Workshop

West Jordan, UT

Maintaining a large landscape area during the heat of the summer can be a challenge. It is the goal of these workshops to aid property managers and maintenance staff of large institutions, government agencies, commercial businesses and Homeowners Associations in troubleshooting maintenance and inefficiencies in their irrigation systems. Each workshop will cover topics vital to maintaining large landscapes. Please call one (1) week in advance to register. (435) 797-2255.

